

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W

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P R 281715Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6070

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SS SP AG MR

SUBJECT:SPANISH SAHARA: FURTHER MILITARY CLASH; PRIMIN OSMAN INTO
FRAY AT KAMPALA

REF: A. RABAT 3589; B. MADRID 5163

1. OPPOSITION ISTIQLAL DAILY L'OPINION JULY 28 REPORTED "VIOLENT
CLASH BETWEEN SPANISH AND MOROCCAN ARMIES ALONG SAHARA BORDER"
AT TAH PREVIOUS DAY. REUTER REPORT, BASED ON SPANISH ARMY
COMMUNIQUE FROM AL AYOUN (SEE FBIS LONDON P 271524A JULY 1975)
CITED AS SOURCE. NO INDICATION OF CASUALTIES OR PRISONERS TAKEN
ON EITHER SIDE. PAPER ADDED, OSTENSIBLY FROM OWN SOURCE, THAT
MOROCCAN ARMED FORCES HAD ALSO FIRED ON SPANISH RECONNAISSANCE
AIRCRAFT ON JULY 26. THESE INCIDENTS NOT MENTIONED IN SEMI-
OFFICIAL PRESS.

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2. INSTEAD, SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS JULY 28 NOTED DECLARATION

IN KUWAIT LAST WEEK BY GOM AMBASSADOR TO US BOUTALEB,
WHO TRAVELING ON GOM-GIRM SAHARA DIPLOMATIC MISSION,
THAT RECENT INCIDENTS IN SAHARA PURELY WORK OF SAHARAN RESISTANCE
AND HAVE NEVER INVOLVED MOROCCAN REGULARS. LINE, SAME AS
TAKEN BY ISTIQLAL ON LAST WEEK'S CAPTURES (RABAT 3589; MADRID 5163),
IS CONSISTENT WITH PAST GOM STATEMENTS AND ALSO SERVES TO
PUT BEST FACE ON RECENT SETBACKS. IN ANY CASE, LATEST TAH
PROBE COMES CLOSE ON HEELS OF REPORTED CAPTURE OF 16
MOROCCANS, AND ATTEMPT TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON SPAIN SEEMS
UNDERWAY.

3. OAU: PRIMIN OSMAN, LEADING MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO
OAU SUMMIT IN KAMPALA, GAVE LITTLE REASON TO DOUBT IN
JULY 27 DEPARTURE STATEMENT THAT SAHARA DIPLOMACY WILL BE
HIGH GOM PRIORITY DURING MEETING. GOM CAN BE EXPECTED TO
VIEW ALGERIAN BEHAVIOR AT KAMPALA AS ANOTHER IMPORTANT TEST OF
SAHARA INTENTIONS.
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06 JUL 2006

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